

MAKING PEACE

AN ADVENT TEACHING SERIES . 2009



questions for reflection

series: "Making Peace"

Peace is a word thrown around casually and without much understanding. It is simultaneously a cause, the absence of conflict, a desired state of mind, and the hopeful resting place of those deceased. But the advent (arrival) of Jesus offers us peace in place of enmity – peace with God, peace with each other, and peace within our self. Therefore as Christ followers, what does it look like to follow Jesus by making peace in our daily rhythms, lives, and world?

part 4:

"Making Peace with God"

by Chip Anderson on Tuesday December 22, 2009

Having peace with God is something most people would want to have. However, peace between God and humanity seems difficult, if not impossible, due in part to thinking God is our enemy who is out to get us or he is actively trying to frustrate our lives.

- Can you think of anyone whom you would call an "enemy?"
- What is it about them that makes them your enemy?
- Would you consider God your enemy?
 - Why or Why not?
- Is there a need for people to have peace with God?
 - Why or why not?

Paul is very clear that the only way to have peace with God is through faith in Jesus Christ.

- Knowing God has made peace with you through Christ, how does that affect your view of Him?
- What does it mean for you to have peace with God?

Peace with God does not mean our lives will be without suffering, trials and complications.

- In what ways does the peace of God help us navigate the suffering life brings our way?

Chip mentioned three ways in which we can respond to God's peacemaking efforts with us: 1) Trusting in the teaching, work and person of Jesus 2) Seeing yourself like God sees you 3) To stop fighting with God knowing he is not fighting with you.

- Which of these three do you need to focus on in order to make peace with God?
- Where do you need to make peace with God?
 - What does it look like for you to make peace with God in this area?
 - How might we be encouraged in our peacemaking efforts by Paul's word to the church in Philippi (4:7), where he says that the Peace of God which is beyond our grasp will guide our hearts?
- Since our peacemaking with others should be reflective of God's peacemaking with us, how can we as a church community carry over what we know of making peace with God into making peace in our everyday lives and around the world?